(b) The proposed Armed Forces Tribunal shall adjudicate upon the disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointment enrolment, condition of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act 1950, the Navy Act 1957 and the Air Force Act 1950 and also appeals arising out of orders, findings/sentence of Courts Martial held under the said Acts.

(c) and (d) It will be the prerogative of the High Court to remit such cases to the Tribunal for redressal of grievances.

Maritime Patrol Aircraft

768.SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India with 7,516 kms of coastline, 1197 islands and 2.01 millions of Exclusive Economy Zone does not have a single latest long range maritime patrol aircraft operating;

(b) if so, whether this proposal is there in the Tenth Defence Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Indian Navy has the adequate number of aircraft to meet the requirement for long range maritime patrolling. Some of these are undergoing up- gradation by refurbishment and modernisation during the Tenth Defence Plan to enhance their capabilities keeping in view the latest technological advancements.

Installation of Bio-Digesters in Siachen

769.SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army has installed bio-digesters capable of burning human waste to address growing pollution on the Siachen glacier;

(b) if so, the details of how these bio-digesters help in arresting environmental pollution at Siachen; and

(c) the cost of installing bio-digesters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Six bio-digesters capable of decomposing wastes have been installed at various locations in the Siachen sector. These bio-digesters contain filtering system and a soaking pit. The heavy particles containing

human wastes are treated with the help of bacteria, which eat away the human wastes. Bacteria are required to be replaced at regular intervals.

(c) The cost of one bio-digester is Rs. 45,000/-.

Shortage of Civilian Personnel in Navy

770. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navy has staved off a shortfall in personnel for two major projects with the Government approving the recruitment of nearly 2,000 personnel; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction to increase the strength of civilian personnel in the Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government sanctions for the creation of 2901 posts for the Naval Base Project at Karwar and 1220 posts for the Naval Academy at Ezhimala have been issued during the last two years.

(b) The above sanctions have increased the strength of the civilian personnel of the Navy by 2634 posts. Recruitment action to fill up these posts through direct recruitment and temporary transfers has already been initiated.

Ban on sale of Camouflage Clothes of the Army

771. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to seek ban on sale of camouflage clothes of the Army by private shops in the interest of national security;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to effect changes in the dresses of our Jawans from strategic point of view; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to seek ban on the sale of camouflage clothes of the Army, by private shops.

(c) and (d) The process of improvement of dresses of our jawans purely from the point of view of comfort and durability, is an ongoing one. There is,